

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-6 and 8-17 are pending and stand rejected. Claims 2 and 7 have been withdrawn from consideration. By the present amendment claim 1 has been amended and claim 8 has been cancelled. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-6 and 9-17 are pending in the present application.

Claim 8 has been cancelled to further the prosecution of the present application. Please cancel claim 8 without prejudice or disclaimer.

The Examiner has indicated at page 2 of the Final Office Action that the “Cross-Reference to Related Applications” and “Detailed Description of the Invention” sections are still missing from the specification of the present Application. Responsive thereto, Applicant submits that the present application does not claim priority from an international application, but rather is a PCT National Stage filing under 35 U.S.C. §371, therefore, reference to a priority document is not required. Further, although it is only *suggested* by the rules that each application should include a “Detailed Description of the Invention” section, Applicant has amended the present application to include the heading “Detailed Description of the Invention” immediately prior to paragraph 0010 of the specification as amended in the Amendment filed April 5, 2010.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the withdrawal of objections to the claims based on informalities, as indicated at pages 3 and 4 of the Final Office Action and of the previously presented rejections, as indicated at pages 4 and 5.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 1, 3-6 and 9-17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO03010248 (Moens, et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,824,373 (Biller, et al.), Applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate language from dependent claim 8 and submits that claim 1 and claims 3-6 and 9-17 depending therefrom are now in condition for allowance.

Moens, et al. discloses polymeric powder compositions, hardenable by radiation and usable as paint or varnish, comprising a mixture of at least one (meth)acryloyl group containing

polyphenoxy resin and at least one (meth)acryloyl group containing resin different from the polyphenoxy resin and from a (meth) acryloyl group containing amorphous polyester, and optionally at least one (meth)acryloyl group containing monomer or oligomer. (Col. 1, lines 4-11). The radiation curable powder compositions can be applied to textiles. (Col. 10, lines 3-10). Moens, et al. further relates to a process for coating an article including the steps of 1) applying to the article a radiation curable powder composition by, for example, spraying with a triboelectric or electrostatic spray gun or by deposition in a fluidized bed; 2) melting the coating; and 3) curing the coating in the molten state by UV irradiation or by accelerated electron beams. (Col. 7, lines 66 – Col. 8, lines 1-9). The coatings deposited are melted by the application of heat, e.g., in a forced oven or by means of infrared lamps at a temperature of between 80 and 150° C. (Col. 9, lines 51-54). The curing of the molten coating by UV radiation is by, for example, medium pressure mercury vapor UV radiators. (Col. 9, lines 57-62). Moens, et al. further specifies that, when photocuring the powder composition with UV radiation, at least one photo-initiator is essential. (Col. 8, lines 15-19). Suitable indicators include hydroxycyclohexylphenylketone. (Col. 8, line 31).

Biller, et al. relates to formulations and methods of use for powder coatings cured by ultraviolet radiation in which free radical curing chemical mechanisms are present, in combination with ultraviolet photoinitiation or photocatalysis, pigmented additives, and the electrostatic application of such coatings to wood and wood-related products. (Col. 1, lines 9-17). More specifically, Biller, et al. is directed to powder coatings curable by exposure to radiation, typically ultraviolet radiation, and the electrostatic deposition thereof onto wood substrates. (Col. 12, lines 50-52). The wood substrate may be pre-heated prior to application of the powder coating to a temperature below that at which irreversible damage to the structure or appearance of the substrate occurs; typically in the range of 165-190° F. This preheating causes the powder to

soften and flow upon contract with the substrate. (Col. 20, lines 48-50). End uses of the method disclosed in Biller, et al. include coatings of office furnishings, household appliances, shelving, yard furnishings, garden tractors and other equipment and certain automotive parts. (Col. 5, line 63-Col. 6, line 1).

In contrast, claim 1 as amended recites in part:

A method of making an industrial fabric...melting the powder such that the powder forms a coating layer on the fabric surface, wherein said coating layer is a porous layer, said porous coating layer being formed by first wetting the surface of said fabric with a liquid before subsequently applying the powder onto said surface of said fabric and drying off said liquid in said melting step to form pin holes in said coating layer...

(Emphasis added). Applicants submit that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by Moens, et al. or Biller, et al., or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination.

Whereas Moens, et al. discloses a process for coating an article via the application of a radiation curable powder composition by spraying with, for example, an electrostatic spray gun and subsequently melting and curing the coating by UV irradiation and Biller, et al. discloses that preheating a wood substrate prior to application of the powder coating, thus allowing the powder to soften and flow upon contact with the substrate, neither Moens, et al. nor Biller, et al. discloses a method of coating an industrial fabric where by a porous coating layer is formed by first wetting the surface of the fabric with a liquid before subsequently applying the powder and drying off the liquid to form pin holes in the coating layer, as recited in amended claim 1. Further, U.S. Patent No. 2,300,155 (Heintz), referenced at page 6 of the Final Office Action, merely discloses that it may be advantageous to make fabric breathable and, therefore, coatings may be applied to a fabric in discontinuous areas or as a very thin discontinuous coating. (Col. 1, lines 49-56). Thus, Heintz fails to overcome the deficiencies of Moens, et al. and Biller, et al. with respect to amended claim

1, since it does not disclose the formation of a porous coating layer on a fabric specifically by first wetting the surface of the fabric with a liquid before applying a powder and drying off the liquid to form pin holes in the coating layer. Accordingly, claim 1 as amended is in condition for allowance.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that claim 1 and claims 3-6 and 9-17 depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Responsive to the rejection of claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moens, et al. in view of Biller, et al. and further in view of Heintz, Applicant has cancelled claim 8 and incorporated language from dependent claim 8 into independent claim 1, which is believed allowable for the aforementioned reasons.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that no combination of the cited references teaches, discloses or suggests the subject matter of the amended claims. The pending claims are therefore in condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

In the event Applicant has overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicant hereby conditionally petitions therefor and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095, TAYLOR IP, P.C.

Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (260) 897-3400.

Respectfully submitted,

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